

1. A method of decreasing viral replication in cells, the method comprising decreasing levels of functional cellular protease in the cells.

1           2.     The method of claim 1 wherein decreasing levels  
2     of functional cellular protease comprises decreasing  
3     cellular protease gene expression in the cells.

1           3.     The method of claim 2 wherein decreasing  
2     cellular protease gene expression comprises exposing the  
3     cells to a compound which decreases cellular protease  
4     gene expression.

1           4.     The method of claim 3 wherein the compound is  
2     an antisense oligonucleotide targeted to the cellular  
3     protease gene.

1           5.    The method of claim 1 wherein decreasing levels  
2   of functional cellular protease comprises exposing the  
3   cells to an inhibitor of the functional cellular  
4   protease.

1           6.    The method of claim 1 wherein the cellular  
2    protease is calpain.

1           7. The method of claim 6 wherein decreasing levels  
2 of functional calpain comprises exposing the cells to a  
3 calpain inhibitor.

1           8.    The method of claim 7 wherein the calpain  
2   inhibitor is E64D or Z-Leu-Leu-H.

1           9. A method of treating or preventing a viral  
2 infection in a subject, the method comprising  
3 administering to the subject an amount of a compound  
4 effective to decrease levels of functional cellular  
5 protease in cells of the subject.

1           10. The method of claim 9 wherein the compound  
2 decreases levels of functional cellular protease by  
3 decreasing cellular protease gene expression.

1           11. The method of claim 10 wherein decreasing  
2 cellular protease gene expression comprises exposing the  
3 cells to a compound which decreases cellular protease  
4 gene expression.

1           12. The method of claim 11 wherein the compound is  
2 an antisense oligonucleotide targeted to the cellular  
3 protease gene.

1           13. The method of claim 9 wherein the compound is  
2 an inhibitor of the functional cellular protease.

1           14. The method of claim 9 wherein the cellular  
2 protease is calpain.

1           15. The method of claim 14 wherein the compound is  
2 an inhibitor of the cellular protease.

1           16. The method of claim 15 wherein the calpain  
2 inhibitor is E64d or Z-Leu-Leu-H.

1           17. The method of claim 9 wherein the viral  
2 infection is caused by a DNA virus.

1           18. The method of claim 17 wherein the DNA virus is  
2    a human cytomegalovirus, a herpes simplex virus, or a  
3    varicellar zoster virus.